MEMORANDUM

August 18, 2004

TO:	THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
FROM:	ROGER H. GRANBO Principal Deputy County Counsel General Litigation Division
RE:	Claim of Mark Oliver RMIS No. 04-1026569
DATE OF INCIDENT:	October 26, 2003
AUTHORITY REQUESTED:	\$60,705
COUNTY DEPARTMENT:	Fire Department
CLAIMS BOARD ACTION:	
Approve	Disapprove Recommend to Board of Supervisors for Approval
ROCKY A. ARMFIELD, Chief Administrative Office	
JOHN F. KRATTLI	
MARIA M. OMS	
on October 4, 2004	

SUMMARY

This is a recommendation to settle for \$60,705 a claim for damages filed by Mark Oliver, whose driveway was damaged by fire trucks and water tenders being used by members of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, who were fighting a fire in the City of Claremont.

LEGAL PRINCIPLES

The County is responsible for the negligent and intentional acts of its employees when the acts are done in the course and scope of employment.

SUMMARY OF FACTS

On October 26, 2003, the Los Angeles County Fire Department was fighting a major wild fire in the City of Claremont. The Fire Department used Mark Oliver's property, including his 300 foot long driveway, as a staging area where the fire trucks could be loaded with water from a water tender. The water tenders, loaded with 2000-3000 gallons of water, were parked on Mark Oliver's driveway. The driveway sustained extensive damage due to the weight of the water tenders and the fire trucks.

DAMAGES

The cost to repair Mark Oliver's driveway was \$60,705.

STATUS OF CASE

This matter is in the claims stage.

EVALUATION

The Fire Department acknowledged that its equipment caused the damage to the driveway, and confirmed the extent of the damage. Settling this matter at the claim stage will avoid incurring any litigation costs.

We join with our third party administrator, Carl Warren and Company, in recommending a settlement of this matter in the amount of \$60,705. The Fire Department concurs in the recommendation.

APPROVED:

GARY N. MILLER

Assistant County Counsel
General Litigation Division

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